

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6-71 are presently pending in this application, Claims 12-71 having been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, Claims 2-5 having been canceled, and Claims 1 and 6 having been amended by the present amendment. Support for the amendment can be found in the original application, for example, specification, at page 117, lines 8-10. Thus, no new matter is believed to be added. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language. Also, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 2-5 be canceled without prejudice.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title of the invention was objected to for not being descriptive; and Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by JP 2002-329891 (hereinafter "JP '891").

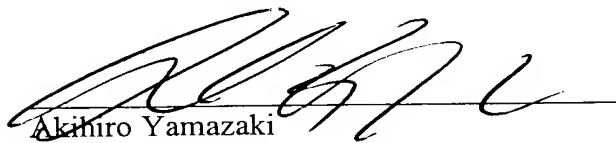
In response to the objection to the title of the present application, a new title for the subject invention has been submitted herewith. The new title is believed to be fully descriptive of the present invention and no further objection to the title is therefore anticipated.

Regarding the rejection based on JP '891, submitted herewith is a literal translation of the priority document, Japanese Application No. 2002-099307, filed April 1, 2002, and a declaration executed by the translator. As evidenced by the translation, the subject matters recited in the pending claims are disclosed in the priority document. Thus, it is believed that the foreign priority of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §119 is perfected, and that JP '891 published November 15, 2002 is disqualified as prior art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection based on JP '891 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a).

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Akihiro Yamazaki', written over a horizontal line.

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